

MASON'S

Coin Collectors'

HERALD

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No. 2.

COLLECTION OF RARE OLD VIOLINS.

BY S. C.

THERE is scarcely any pursuit which so grows with what it feeds upon as the passion for collecting. One who collects has the evidence of his efforts always before him. The habit of collecting really beautiful and valuable things may be very safely indulged in, and examples of such pleasant pursuits are all around us. There are, for instance, numerous private collections of pictures, coins, and other articles in this city which, by only a moderate exercise of liberality, increase annually in value and interest, and will serve to gladden and educate many a future student in its various departments.

Not long ago the writer came upon a large and interesting collection of musical instruments. Like most of such discoveries this was made quite accidentally. Your genuine collector does not advertise the successive increases of his store. It has been just this with that genuine musician, Carl Plagemann. Mr. Plagemann has now resided in Philadelphia for more than thirty years, having originally appeared here as the first horn player of the old Germania Orchestra, in the autumn of 1848. Chancing to call upon him on some business recently, I was invited to his apartments, where the common air seems to be suddenly exchanged for an intensely musical atmosphere. One first catches sight of two violoncellos behind the sofa upon which he is invited to be seated. How many instruments may be under that sofa it is hard to tell or count, but the noses of violin boxes are protruded at close intervals, and the same are seen to project from every unoccupied nook about this and the adjoining apartment. A half dozen choice instruments are stowed away under the bed and bureau. Whether one of the best of them may not share a place on the pillow it would hardly have been polite to inquire. But there was one viola so affectionately treated by its kindly owner that it almost suggested such an idea. This instrument was an exceedingly well preserved and beautiful specimen of an Amati, of most artistic proportions and firm, full tone. There was also another Amati viola, less powerful, but in splendid condition. The violins were the most numerous. Besides all of these that were stowed away in their individual cases, seven

hung from the ceiling of a closet and twelve were arranged in a cabinet. There are upwards of thirty violins altogether which Mr. Plagemann has picked up in his long musical career. Among the makers represented are Amati, Guarnerius, Rugioni, Storioni, Gagliani, Deconet, Stainer, Klotz, Breton, etc. Of Jacob Stainer, who was probably the most successful maker of the seventeenth century—always excepting the Cremonese school—there are two rare specimens. One of these is of a grand, rich tone, and with a powerful frame. The other is more delicate in mechanism, and correspondingly lighter in tone, but both, in their construction, bear the unmistakable marks of the same master hand.

Among the interesting violins of this collection are three modern instruments made by Lowendall, of Dresden. These have been carefully and exactly patterned after the best existing specimens respectively of Stradivarius, Amati and Guarnerius. Of course, as the secret of supreme success appears to have died with these masters, these copies are chiefly valuable as guides to the amateur collector in deciding upon the genuineness of originals. All sorts of impositions are practiced upon the unwary. Not very long ago a violin, which was claimed to be a genuine Giovanni Battista Guadagnini, was offered in this city at a high price. It was so uncount and generally unprepossessing that a young collector doubted its authenticity, more particularly as the workmanship of the above, who was the best of the Guadagnini family, is very little known here. A more experienced judge satisfied him on this point and saved the young man's money by gravely expressing the belief that the violin had been made in Ireland. It is almost safe to judge any old violin by its intrinsic beauties. Some of the loveliest mechanism known in wood work may be found among these old and valuable instruments which have been thus briefly alluded to and of which the genial musician already named is the fortunate possessor.—*The Times, Phila.*

Our Numismatic Visitor.—No. 3 of this Journal will be out on the 15th inst.

GEMS.

The 1804 dime and the 1805 half dime in second sale of the Smith Cabinet are a pair of beauties.

Public Sale of the "SMITH CABINET."

NEW YORK CITY.

OCTOBER 5, 6, 7, AND 19, 20, AND 21.

For the first three days sale of the above named coin cabinet, we have sent by express and mail nearly one thousand catalogues, in all cases pre-paying postage; hence we trust all dealers and collectors will make good use of the books. Should any dealer, or collector be neglected, by omission on our part, or by miscarriage on the part of the postal managers, we will rectify the trouble, upon notification, by return mail. In behalf of Mr. Smith, the owner of the cabinet to be sold, we would say, that he has lost none of his interest in the hobby we all ride; but a change in business at which he has been employed for twenty-nine years, necessitated the sale. The extraordinary character and variety of this interesting collection, rendered the work of cataloguing and assorting no easy task, during the hot weeks of June and July; and if we have made a new departure in the arrangement of the various series, it has seemed best to us for buyer and seller.

Although there are many coins, &c., in this cabinet of small value, there are a goodly number of rare and fine pieces among the different American series catalogued; also a large number of fine ancient and modern coins, politicals, tokens, business cards, medals, medalets, &c., also rare "Confederate States" pieces, and paper money, bonds, &c.; while the colonial, continental, state and local notes, are very interesting and numerous, many of which are rare and in clean condition, a large number of numismatic books, curious relics, &c., add to the attractions of the sales. There is certainly a large variety of pieces, from which experts and the novice can find something worth securing. We call especial attention to the rare dollars, halves, quarters, dimes, half dimes, cents and half cents in the sales; also to the foreign silver coins, and medals, which latter, though largely in excess of the American silver coins and medals, are none the less rare and interesting. Among the American Colonials are several of great rarity and value. The "Standish Barry Three Pence," or "Baltimore Town Piece," as it is sometimes called, is one of the few rarities found in coin sales, and its condition is such that we anticipate a lively competition on the piece. We know there are not enough 1794 '36, '38, '39, and 58 dollars to go around but enough to create an interest, and lively bidding on these rarities. The U. S. halves and quarters, are in quantity and variety sufficient to suit the general class of buyers, while special pieces of rarity and fine condition can be obtained by collectors who know what they want and are willing to pay a little extra to obtain it. The cents present an unusual variety of specimens and will be found in the two sales in ample number to supply, at least, half of the demand. The Dimes, of which there are a number, for quality and rarity, seldom met with, and the half dimes, of which the 1802 and 1805 are worth noting, and half cents, together with many Colonials, American and Foreign silver coins, medals, paper money, numismatic books, periodical, and a few facetious

pieces, &c., will be offered in the second sale (Oct 19, 20, 21). The Catalogue of the second sale will be distributed early in September and we request early notice if more copies than sent for first sale are wanted by coin dealers or collectors. In conclusion we trust our efforts in managing this sale will be alike satisfactory to buyers and owner. In our supplementary journal *The Numismatic Visitor*, we will have more to say about the second sale.

REVIEWS.

The American Journal of Numismatics, (Quarterly) July, Boston. This welcome visitor is replete with articles of interest to the Coin Collector and Archaeologist. The frontispiece represents the gold medal presented to Washington by Congress in 1776; also illustrations of Washington's family arms, and private seal. A full description of the presentation and a history of the medal accompanies the illustrations. "*Canadian Numismatics*" is continued and exhibits the ability of its author, R. W. McLachlan, to handle the subject in a masterly manner. "Woodward's Coin Sales" furnishes a number of interesting reminiscences connected with auction coin sales of past years. Many other articles of interest are in this number of the Journal, which want of room compels us to omit.

The Coin Collectors' Journal for July, Scott & Co., at hand. The "Cents of the U. S." are continued, and 1799 is *under fire* with all the fractional measurements, loops, lines, dots and confusing mathematical calculations that have for months afflicted our early copper coins, at the hands of some one of Scott & Co's editorial corps. Collectors of the future will be obliged to carry a box of mathematical instruments if they elect to collect varieties of U. S. coins, by Scott & Co's plan of measurements, &c. The balance of the Journal for this month is taken up with interesting matter to the numismatic reader.

VALUE OF AN EXTRA FEATHER.

We do not know whether or not seven feathers is the regulation number of an eagle's tail, but we *do* know that there are but seven feathers in the eagle's tail of the great majority of the "Standard" dollars of 1878. It is reported that but two hundred of the "Standard" or "Bland" dollars with eight feathers in the eagle's continuation were coined at the U. S. Mint. If this is true, and it comes from one of the principal officials of the mint, the latter dollars will soon take a flight upwards, assisted by the extra feather in the eagle's tail. These dollars will no doubt command eight, or ten dollars each in the near future. At present the extra feather is worth at the dealers stores one dollar—the eight feathered variety selling in uncirculated condition for two dollars. Fortunately this office has a half dozen on hand at the present time at a low figure.

Correspondents Department.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. F., Irvington, N. Y.—We shall await your promised credit for small article in the last *Numisma*, taken from June *Herald*, with pleasure. Thank you for the forethought of giving credit where it is due. Others might learn a lesson from your example and *we*, if not *they*, profit by it.

R. S. T., Concord, N. H.—There were about an hundred and fifteen Stella sets of 1879 struck. The Stella, Goloid and Metrie pieces are not regular U. S. Patterns, but struck for a special party for a special purpose.

J. C. S., Boston.—Hope you will have *lots* of bids for our sale of October 5, 6 and 7. Have sent you the catalogues asked for.

W. E. W., Roxbury, Mass.—Sent at your request one hundred catalogues of sale. Will repeat the dose Sept. 20th.

H. G. SAMPSON, New York.—Received your card, calling for 125 catalogues of coin sale. The Simpson referred to as attending sale of Searing Collection, should have read Sampson.

G. COGAN.—H. Ahlborn, G. M. Elliott, A. H. Moore, Chas. Steigerwalt, W. K. Miller, Jos. L. Riday, C. H. Bremer.—All attended to and the catalogues forwarded.

B. T. W., Philad'a.—The silver badge is one of those worn by the "Ladies' Loyal League," of New York City during the Rebellion.

CONN. SUBSCRIBERS.—Regret very much we did not see you all during our excursion East. Will see you ere many weeks. Have sent each one of our patrons copy of Sale Catalogue.

CANADA PATRONS.—Your general desire to have the *Herald* monthly will be considered, and should the number of subscribers in December warrant it, will change with pleasure in 1881. Hope the Sale Catalogues and July *Visitors* arrived safely.

L. R. C., St. Louis.—1853 half dollars, without arrows and rays, are rare, and we are buying all we can get. Look over all the silver in your bank and report. Send us all the 1815, 1836 (Reeded edge) and 1852 half dollars you find, by registered mail.

R. C., New York.—We published the first monthly Stamp and Coin Magazine in the U. S. (April, 1867) Trifet & Co, the second *Stamp Journal* (Oct, 1867) please send us a package of the coins you allude to.

W. S., Watertown, N. Y.—There are several varieties of the 1805 over 4, U. S. half dollar, the most important of which are the large and small 4, close and broad date.

PHILA. DEALERS.—Have sent catalogues to all. If more are required, please send messenger for same.

A. H. L., Hartford, Conn.—Dickeson's and other numismatic books are in our Coin Sales of Oct. 5, 6, 7 and 19, 20 and 21. Send us bids and we will execute them without charge.

CORNER IN SPINNING WHEELS.

The rage is for the old or grotesque. The bonnet of the day must be run over by a wheel-barrow and kicked by a mule to give it shape, and decorated by old fruit cans and divers birds to give it proper tone for church parade. Old pots that our grandmothers used for snuff jars, must be badly painted with cheap varnish and worse burlesques on animated nature, for what-not ornaments; not because we respect our grandmother's bad habits, but because a certain new fashion demands the *old* fashioned in a fool's dress. So, too, the whim of the hour pays homage to our "grandfather's clock" on the ground, no doubt, that the substantial ugliness of a clock fifteen feet high, with a mechanical burlesque on the silvery moon for a headpiece, will add a greater beauty to a grand piano and Eastlake furniture. Add to this a forced admiration for old spinning-wheels, and the ludicrous side of fashion is fully rounded. Imagination can take in the old fireplace and enjoy the hum of the busy wheel—but the same imagination sneers at the grotesqueness of putting a *Priseilla* beside a gilded spinning-wheel in a modern parlor, whose only claim to notice is general garnishness.

The next thing in order will be the putting of real wigs on statues. Still, fashion must be respected—even made a subject of speculative corners. The desire for old spinning-wheels for parlor ornaments has put upon them a fictitious value; so "corners" in the same ought not to be a surprising thing. A good old farmer has overhauled his neighborhood, and caught in his speculative net seven old spinning-wheels, in good condition, of ancient make—the most of them having hummed music during the revolution. These wheels are now in town.—*Lancaster Examiner*.

MINT DROPS FOR JUNE AND JULY.

During the month of June the coinage amounted to 3,731,940 pieces, valued at \$3,434,266, and composed of 100,720 eagles, 280,520 half eagles, 1,000,500 silver dollars, 500 half dollars, 500 quarter dollars, 500 dimes, 900 5 cent pieces, 900 3 cent pieces, and 2,346,900 one cent pieces.

—The following is a statement of the coinage executed at the United States mint in this city during the month of July, 1880:

Denomination.	Pieces.	Value.
Silver dollars.....	600,000	\$600,000 00
Cents.....	1,650,000	16,500 00

Mason's Coin Collectors' Herald.

PHILADELPHIA, SEPTEMBER, 1880

E. MASON, Jr. - - - Editor and Proprietor.

DEVOTED TO NUMISMATICS, WITH A LEANING TOWARDS
ALL INTERESTING "HOBBIES"

QUARTERLY

TERMS:—\$1 00 per Annum in Advance.

EDITORIAL EXCURSIONS.

No. VI.

IN the month of May we sallied forth on a numismatic tour through New England, stopping at a few cities in New Jersey, and passing through New York City, with only a momentary stay at Brown's, Sampson's and a few other dealers, thence taking Steamer Bristol to Fall River and Boston. In Boston we called at once upon Woodward, Schayer, Rodgers, Williams, Monroe, and our friends of the Evening Herald, exhibited some rare coins and had the pleasure of seeing a few gems in the shape of very fine early American gold and silver coins. A "Chip of the block" accompanied us and it was a decided relief to have our Ned carry the "treasures", while we did the trading and talking. Disappointments are sometimes unexpected and met with. In New York we called at Brown's, and after climbing those almost interminable stair cases on Nassau St., discovered that Brown was attending a Postage Stamp Sale in another part of the city. Dotted down disappointment No. 1, and failed to secure an 1854 proof U. S. dollar. The next disappointments we marked Boston No. 2 and 3. Called at Parmelee's residence in Chester Park, to exhibit a very fine 1802 dime &c., but Mr. P. had left for "down east," to be gone for a week. Called at Millborn's store, and found it closed, and learned that he was down sick with the typhoid fever. Next took a little trip up through Mass. and into New Hampshire, stopping at Manchester in time to accompany our friend Adams to Lowell, Mass. At the latter city had the misfortune to find Elliott had left for Boston, and thus came disappointment No. 4. While waiting for a train in Lowell, we visited Mathews and a half dozen other sociable collectors. Saw a very fine dime of 1797 in a drug store, for which we tendered \$15.00, and were refused its possession. Purchased in Lowell a 1794 half dime, and 1822 dime, some pretty fair old U. S. dollars, &c. Mr. Mathews kindly exhibited his beautiful cabinet of coins and minerals, and gave us an "easy lesson" in raising 1804 dollars from earlier dates. Mr. M. produced a common silver half dollar, upon the field of which he had, by mechanical means, raised the figure 1 from the field of the piece, without calling to his aid solder, or other materials, thus convincing us that a numeral or letter could be

readily gathered together and raised to appear as if struck by a die. Mathews is an ingenious, indefatigable numismatist, and we regret that we had no fitting opportunity to examine his fine collection entire. Back to Boston, over to Cambridge, down to Salem, thence to Boston and via steamer to Portland. On the way out to sea, our companion, "Ned" was interested in the beautiful green color of the salt water, and enjoyed the rocking motion of the little steamer hugely, but there came a change—the dinner bell, nor numismatics had attractions for "Ned," and he felt like "throwing up" his engagement, taking his hat and wages and walking ashore. Time ends all things, and in time we arrived at Boston, found comfortable temporary quarters, (numismatists will call things by their right names,) at the Preble House, Congress Street. Our natal place had altered since the big fire, yet we recognised "Deering's Oaks", and with the aid of Capt. Mitchell we stirred up some lively juvenile reminiscences of Portland. Here we met that good looking student of numismatology, friend Curtis, whose duplicate pieces formed a recent Coin Sale in New York, under the supervision of Mr. Woodward. Curtis still retains his choice series of fine silver and copper U. S. coins, but is about to embark in the profitable business of quarrying slate—a valuable mine of superior quality having been discovered in this State, to be worked by a stock company—hence the sale of his loose coins. We called on Paine, Middle Street, to see his Collection of Dramatic Programmes, Paper Money, Autographs, &c. Edgar Dow, an enthusiastic Collector, was out of town, (disappointment No. 5,) and we missed a numismatic pow wow with him. Into the Eastern R. R. Depot we snatched, with a view of enquiring over some coins in the ticket office, and here discovered that a first cousin we had not seen since boyhood, occupied a prominent position in the Eastern R. R. Depot, and we lost no time in reaching his office. After a hearty reception; earnest, mutual congratulations and a glorious calling up of the past, Capt. Mitchell invited his cousin and companion to Deering, about a mile from the city, to his delightful country residence, which thereafter we made the base of all numismatic operations and excursions in Maine. Here we met Capt. Mitchell's man of all work, "John," and the latter learning our occupation, produced a very fine 1795 U. S. half cent, which we "hankered" after greatly; but "John" was unimpressible penniarily and refused all offers. Our next trip was to Augusta, stopping at Gardiner and various other cities en route. At Augusta we stopped in a saloon on the main street, and examined a large collection of coins and exhibited a few, with little trade as a result. Learning that the best 1799 and 1804 cents in the world, were to be seen just over the way at a millinery store, we hastened across the street, found a gentleman who claimed ownership of the cents, who kindly inaugurated business talk, by saying he had been offered \$50.00 each for the aforesaid U. S. coins.

We generously informed our enthusiastic collector that we would willingly pay him \$100.00 each for the "best 1799 and 1804 cents in the world." In time,

boxes were overhauled, papers unwrapped, and knowing the fallibility of people who have laid claim to extraordinary coins, we concluded to accomplish a little solid business before being surprised out of our senses by seeing the coins, so we proposed to our friend, publishing to the coin collecting fraternity throughout the world, in next *Herald*, all about his two valuable coins. Our paper was \$1.00 per annum. Would he kindly subscribe—he *would*, and *did*—the dollar came first, the cents afterwards, and the 1799 and 1804 were brought forth, and were beautiful, uncirculated specimens of—the electrotyper's skill! (Disappointment No. 6.)

We returned to Portland next day and telegraphed to Haines, the famous collector of Biddeford, that we would pay him a visit, and soon after were on the Eastern R. R. for a run of about 15 miles, arriving in Biddeford at noon, just in time to learn that Mr. Haines stepped on the same train for Boston that we had stepped off from for Biddeford, (disappointment No. 7.) However, we concluded to call at our friend's residence and learn when he would return. This gave us an opportunity to study the Coin market of this pretty little town. After climbing the hill where the water works are located and crossing the street we passed through a winding and beautiful carriage road, in appearance much like the entrances to the wealthy gentlemen's country seats in England. We soon came to the portico and front door of a magnificent residence, thinking at the time, that Brother Woodward's statement, in a recent Coin Catalogue, that "*Mr. Haines handled a hundred thousand dollars in silver, in selecting his fine pieces,*" was more of fact than fiction. "Mr. Haines has gone to Boston" said a servant maid in reply to our knock, and would not return soon. Thus we missed the pleasure of a numismatic talk with a well known and popular Collector, (Disappointment No. 8.) Down the hill, through the main street we sauntered, stopping in the stores for coins and picking up a few early U. S. Silver and copper pieces; thence back to Portland, and out to Deering, where Capt. Mitchell and his good lady entertained us with their lively conversation and fed us with the luxuries of their well filled table. The next day in company with our companion Ned, and "John" as a guide, we visited the White Mountains of New Hampshire for the first time, returning at night and reluctantly left our kind friends, and the city of our nativity on the following day. Stopping at Lynn, Salem, etc. At the former city we expected to secure an 1838 U. S. Half Dollar, Orleans Mint, but were disappointed for the ninth time, in not finding the owner of the rarity at home.

Arriving in Boston, we transacted considerable coin business with Schayer, Ahlborn and others; visited the Cambridge and Charlestown numismatists, and then, up through Lowell to Concord; thence back to Boston, on to New York and Philadelphia. Again packing our valise with numismatic treasures, we paid a visit to Washington, contracted for a public sale of the "Smith Cabinet;" visited Chambers, Williams, Richardson, the "Squire" at City Hall, purchased three Stella Goloid and Metric sets, (patterns) returned to Baltimore, called

on Prof. Pinion, the Oriental traveler and numismatist, passed an hour in comparing "gems;" thence to friend Massamore's residence, only to learn he had gone to the country the day before (disappointment No. 10;) thence down by the Post Office to see Jamison, Burleigh and others. Jamison exhibited his beautiful series of dollars halves, quarters, dimes and half dimes; traded with us for a fine 1798 small eagle 13 star dollar; parting with a pattern trade dollar, a '56 nickel, &c.; thence we visited Des Forges store on St. Paul's St., Reed's curiosity shop, North Eutaw St., several small dealers in Old Town, and returned to Philadelphia to commence our catalogues of the coin sales to be held at Bangs & Co.; New York, Oct. 5, 6 and 7, and 19, 20 and 21. (Catalogues of the former now ready.)

In November we expect to visit Germany, to attend the great public sale of the "Leitzmann Cabinet," consisting of 23,600 coins, medals, &c., ancient and modern. This sale will commence Oct. 18, at Leipzig, and continue (at the rate of 400 lots each day) for nearly two months. A report of the sale will be of interest to the numismatists of America. Bros. Sailor, Riday, Steigerwalt and others of Lancaster and Contesville will pardon our omission, in this rather lengthy excursion, of our one day's visit in June to their towns, as we shall have occasion to allude to that trip in a future number.

ANOTHER VARIETY OF THE U. S. COINS COMES TO THE FRONT.

B. T. Walton, of this city, called our attention recently to a new variety of our silver half dollars, viz: The 1853 half dollar, New Orleans mint, without arrow points at either side of date; and without rays on the reverse. There may have been other specimens of this rarity seen by collectors, but we confess that Mr. Walton's coin is the first we ever saw, or noticed in a pretty large experience in handling coins. If any of our readers know of, or possess a similar half dollar, we will be thankful for an early notification of the same, and if any one has a specimen for sale, we are prepared to offer a liberal sum for its possession. A rumor comes to our ears that another specimen of this peculiar coin is in existence in this city, but the rumor is not authenticated as yet. Mr. Walton sold his 1853 piece to a gentleman in this city.

GARFIELD AND HANCOCK MEDALS.

We are agents for sale of several varieties of these medals, and for badges of every description. Send for circulars and price lists. Traveling agents supplied with campaign stock of every description. Circulars free on application. Specimen medal mailed to any address, for 10 cts. See advertisement on last page.

SCOTT AND CO'S "PATTERN" PIECE.

The Editor of the *Coin Collector's Journal* (published by Scott & Co.) in the July number, makes the following extraordinary announcement: "We will take exception to our erring brother when he speaks of an 1838 half dollar with mint mark 'O.' We can assure him it is no more a coin, than is the Flying Eagle half dollar, but was and is merely a pattern of the rarest kind." We hardly know which to admire most the assurance exhibited, by informing us that the "1838 half dollar is not a coin," or the ignorance in asserting in positive terms that the "1838 half dollar, O mint, is a pattern piece." The piece in question does not partake in the remotest degree of the qualities necessary to make it a pattern. We have supposed heretofore that a change in design is essential to the term "pattern coin." In no point does the 1838 half dollar differ from other half dollars that succeeded it at the New Orleans Mint. The dies of the 1838 half dollar were made at the master mint in this city and forwarded to New Orleans for the purpose of striking the regular coinage, and was not made for pattern dies, were not used as such and the 1838 half dollars, New Orleans Mint, is a half dollar of the regular series and not a "pattern;" the assertion of Scott & Co., or their proxy—perhaps we should say Prosky—to the contrary, notwithstanding. For the information of the editor of Scott & Co's C. C. Journal let us inform him that Jas. B. Clemens had an 1838 half dollar, New Orleans mint (O), on obverse under bust, which was sold from his Cabinet, by Bangs & Co, (Catalogued by Edward Cogan), Oct. 22, 1878. By reference to the Catalogue our statement will be corroborated. Shall we tell our "erring brother" that there is an 1838 half dollar, O Mint, in Nevada, another in Lynn, Mass, another claimed by C. H. Brenner, Jefferson, N. Y.; and a rubbing of one sent us from Texas, which dealers, in this city have been negotiating to purchase. Perhaps the erndite editor of the C. C. Journal will pronounce the 1853 U. S. half dollar, without arrows and rays, O Mint, (referred to on another page of this issue) a "pattern piece." It is always best to be cautious in regard to positive assertions about this or that coin, in public journals, as coins have a peculiar habit of "turning up" at unexpected moments.

MISCELLANEOUS "HOBBIES."

Although our *Herald* in the main, is devoted to the science numismatic, we do not repudiate other subjects, similar to our own in many respects, and which excite similar interest. We will cheerfully publish any communications, or contributions of interest to the general collector. In this number we insert "Spinning-wheels" and "Rare Old Violins," which serve to amuse and interest the reader. Autographs, minerals, early American imprints, postage stamps, bric-a-brac, and other subjects commanding the attention of collectors, will be treated of in the future. Our valued deceased friend, J. J. Mickley, besides being one of the most prominent

numismatists in America, was a lover and collector of "old Violins," antique furniture, old high case clocks, &c., and was also a piano mannaftner and msisieian of extraordinary ability. In the case of clocks—really, high case clocks—we have known one purchased at a country vendue for \$4.00 and re-sold for \$50.00. St. Domingo mahogany tables, chairs, and hand irons, sereens, &c., are very valuable when very antique.

A REWARD OF MERIT.

The following beautiful silver medal was shown us on a recent visit to Manchester, N. H. Obverse, Fame holding a wreath in the extended right hand; implements of agriculture, commerce and the arts below; around this "*New Hampshire Agricultural Society.*" Reverse, "*Awarded to Phineas Adams of Manchester, N. H., for Coins and Medals,*" in 3 lines in ornamental snrronndings. An arm and hammer at each side, below this a shield, bearing the date "1873." The shield is enclosed in a wreath composed of fruits, cereals, &c. The medal is an artistic work, in beautiful proof condition, size 40, very thick, and enclosed in a magnificent case. A fitting tribute to a devoted numismatist and worthy citizen.

A PRETTY CONCEIT.

We publish the following as one of the cleverest productions, poetically, that has been produced in this country. Mr. Stoddard, the author will please pardon the parody.

A ROSE SONG.

BY R. H. STODDARD.

Why are red roses red?
For roses once were white,
Because the loving nightingales
Sang on their thorns all night,
Sang till the blood they shed
Had dyed the roses red.

Why are white roses white?
For roses once were red.
Because the sorrowing nightingales
Wept when the night was fled,
Wept till their tears of light
Had washed the roses white.

Why are the roses sweet?
For once they had no scent.
Because one day the Queen of Love,
Who to Adonis went,
Brushed them with heavenly feet—
That made the roses sweet.

A COIN SONG.

(PARODY)

Respectfully dedicated to the lady employees in the
U. S. Mint, Philadelphia.

By E. Mason Jr.

Why are the red pennies red?
* For pennies once where white.
Because the novice is struggling
With sand to make them bright,
Bright as a lobster's head;
That makes the pennies red!

Why are white dollars white?
For pennies once were red.
Because the "Goddess of Liberty"
Fainted when "Trades" were made,
Made against Justice and Right,
That made the dollars white!

Why are the "Mint Drops" sweet,
To those having "nary" a cent?
Because all day sweet "Mint ladies"
Over the coins are bent;
Piling and stacking so fleet,
That makes the "Mint Drops" sweet.

Philadelphia, July, 1880.

*The "pennies" coined by the early English Kings were struck in silver.

STELLA AND GOLOID-METRIC PIECES.

Notwithstanding extensive advertising and offering to pay \$30.00 per set for these peculiar "Patterns," we have to date secured but five sets. On account of the various rumors about the number of sets struck, some placing the number at 200, others at 300, we have reduced our offers to \$15.00, and our sale price to \$20.00.

COIN SALES.

W. E. Woodward offers "the Jenks' Collection" at auction on the 1st, 2d and 3d instant.

Edward Frossard presents a coin sale on the 17th inst. Catalogues of either sale can be had on application to this office.

WHAT NEXT?

W. E. Woodward has introduced notices of the various Numismatic periodicals in his coin sale catalogue of the 1st, 2nd and 3d inst. We feel complimented by the notice of the *Herald* therein. Why don't Brother W. start a coin journal, and thus let the fraternity enjoy his witticisms and sarcasm?

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION.

OF THE NUMBER, CONDITION, AND VARIETY OF THE AMERICAN
SILVER, COPPER, COLONIAL AND UNITED STATES COINS
IN THE UNITED STATES MINT CABINET, AT
PHILADELPHIA

BY E. M., JR.

DIMES

1796 Uncl., scratched.	1827 Uncirculated.
1797 " 16 stars, stars dull.	1828 Small date, proof.
1798 Good, erk'd planchet	1829 to '34 Proof.
1800 Fine.	1835 Proof.
1801 Poor.	1836 Uncirculated.
1802 Good.	1837 (2) With and with- out stars, P. Mint, proofs.
1803 "	1838 (2) Same, proofs.
1804 Poor.	1839 (2) Uncl. proofs, P. Mint.
1805 Good.	1840 to '44 P. M., proofs.
1807 Fine.	1845 Proof.
1809 Very good.	1846 to '49 Proofs.
1811 " "	1850 Fine.
1814 Very fine.	1851 Very fine.
1820 " "	1852 Uncirculated.
1821 (2) Uncirculated.	1853 (2) Arrows and No A., fine.
1822 Uncirculated.	1854 Proof.
1823 over '22 Uncl., dull stars.	1855 to '80 Proofs.
1824 Uncirculated.	
1825 "	

HALF DIMES.

1794 Very fine.	1838 O. and P. Mints, Uncirculated.
1795 (2) Uncl. and fine.	1839 O. Mint, uncl.
1796 (16 stars,) fine.	1840 to '49 Proofs, P. M.
1797 " " good.	1850 Uncirculated.
1800 Uncl., dull stars.	1851 Very fine.
1801 Fine.	1852 Uncirculated.
1803 "	1853 (2) Arrows and No. A., good.
1805 Poor.	1854 to '57 P. Mint, fine.
1829 to '33 P. M., proofs.	1858 to 1880 P. Mint, proofs.
1834 Proof.	
1835 (2) Proofs.	
1836 Fine.	
1837 (3) O. and P. Mints, proofs.	

SILVER THREE CENT PIECES.

1851 Uncirculated.	1855 Fine.
1852 "	1856 Uncirculated.
1853 to '54 Proofs.	1857 to 1880 Proofs.

(In the next issue the U. S. Copper Cents will be given.)

In the last issue of *Herald* two typographical errors occurred in the list of silver quarter dollars, in U. S. Mint Cabinet. "1816 uncirculated," should read 1818 uncirculated. "1816 to 1824," should read 1819 to 1824.

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American Journal of Numismatics

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1793, 1796 Half Cents,	25 " "
1802, 1831 and 1836 Half Cents,	50 " "
1840, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 Half Cents,	35 " "
1849 Small date Half Cents,	25 " "
1852 Half Cent,	35 " "

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1860 " 1869	"	.70
1870 " 1878	"	.65
1879	"	.75
1851 O Mint, sharp, proof surface,	"	2.50
1851 " " " uncirculated,	"	2.00
1851 " " " uncirculated,	"	1.75

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